

**REMARKS**

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, dated June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003, in which: The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a); claims 3-10, 19, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112; claims 1, 3-7, 11-16 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e); and claims 7, 17, 18 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a). It is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, and reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the following remarks and foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Please cancel claims 1, 3-7, and 10-24 so that these claims may be pursued in a continuation application. It is noted that claim 2 has been cancelled in a previous amendment. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten these claims in independent form, and have additionally corrected claim 8 in accordance with Examiner's request based on a 35 U.S.C 112 rejection. It is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, so that the claims may proceed to allowance.

Applicants acknowledge the rejections made to the drawings. However, in light of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested the foregoing amendments be entered, and it is additionally requested that the pending claims be allowed to proceed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-9427. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated:

10/27/03

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

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